

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON
KidsFirst: Quality Counts for Kids Task Force Recommendation

In June 2004, Governor Jim Doyle announced his appointments to the Quality Counts for Kids Task Force. The Task Force has been working to develop a recommendation to the Governor that will provide a Quality Counts for Kids Rating Scale that will - for the first - rate the quality of child care providers in Wisconsin and guide parents in choosing a provider for their children. The Rating System will give child care providers incentives to go above and beyond the basic health and safety standards, and it will give parents more information about the quality of the child care program. Wisconsin spends \$300 million a year on the Wisconsin Shares Child Care program for W-2 participants and other low-income working parents. The Quality Counts for Kids program will ensure that this money is well spent.

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Child Care Section, the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, Bureau of Regulation and Licensing, and the KidsFirst: Quality Counts for Kids Task Force will be holding public hearings on the Task Force Members' Recommendation for a Quality Rating Scale and Tiered Reimbursement System.

The dates and locations for the public hearings are:

Public Hearing Date	Public Hearing Location	Public Hearing Time
Friday, October 15, 2004	LaCrosse Center South Exhibition Hall 300 Harborview Plaza LaCrosse, WI	11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday, October 20, 2004	Milwaukee Area Technical College Room S120 700 W. State Street Milwaukee, WI	12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 26, 2004	North Central Technical College Room D101 1000 W. Campus Drive Wausau, WI	12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m.

A draft copy of the KidsFirst: Quality Counts for Kids Task Force Recommendation is available on the KidsFirst web page: www.dwd.state.wi.us/kidsfirst. Other resource materials and presentation materials reviewed by the Task Force are also available at this site.

- ❖ Individuals wishing to provide verbal testimony at the above public hearing dates are requested to bring a version of their written testimony to ensure clarity in recording of comments. Task Force Staff will collect written testimony for inclusion in the public comment summary document.

Written comments may be submitted via email to < kathy.mcgurk@dwd.state.wi.us > or mail to Katherine McGurk, Child Care Section, Division of Workforce Solutions, 201 E. Washington Avenue, Room E100, P.O. Box 7972, Madison, WI 53707-7972. All comments must be received no later than Tuesday, October 26, 2004. Written comments will receive equal consideration to testimony received at the hearing. At the hearing, reasonable accommodation, including the provision of information material in an alternative format, will be provided for qualified individuals with disabilities or who are non-English Speaking. Requests for reasonable accommodation must be made prior to October 1, 2004.